

**GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA**

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025

**Page 1 of 1**

**PLACE:** Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Gunnison County Courthouse  
(REMOTE OPTION BELOW)

8:30 am

- Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) Update
- Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) Update
- HB 1177 Roundtable Update

9:15 am

- West Region Wildfire Council Annual Update
- Adjourn

Please Note: Packet materials for the above discussions will be available on the Gunnison County website at <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/meetings> prior to the meeting.

**ZOOM MEETING DETAILS:**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://gunnisoncounty-org.zoom.us/j/89798905619>

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82753657556#,,,,\*471302# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,82753657556#,,,,\*471302# US (Houston)

**AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM**

**Agenda Item:** UGRWCD Update

**Action Requested:** Discussion

**Parties to the Agreement:**

**Term Begins:**

**Term Ends:**

**Grant Contract #:**

**Summary:**

UGRWCD Update

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Submitted by:** Holly Perry

**Submitter's Email Address:** hperry@gunnisoncounty.org

**Finance Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

**County Attorney Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes  No

**County Manager Review:**

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\Hperry

Discharge Date: 10/24/2025

Consent Agenda     Regular Agenda     Worksession

Time Allotted: 30

Agenda Date: 10/28/2025



September 25, 2025 4:30 PM







## Continuous data

Slate R AB Baxter GL @Hwy 135 NR Crested Butte, CO - USGS-385106106571000

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

- using custom time span -  
September 15, 2025 - September 26, 2025

**Discharge, cubic feet per second**

**19.4 ft<sup>3</sup>/s - Sep 20, 2025 05:00:00 PM MDT**



**AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM**

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**Agenda Item:** ADDED IN MEETING - UGRWCD Presentation

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**Action Requested:**

**Parties to the Agreement:**

**Term Begins:**

**Term Ends:**

**Grant Contract #:**

**Summary:**

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Submitted by:**

**Submitter's Email Address:**

**Finance Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

**County Attorney Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes  No

**County Manager Review:**

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted:

Agenda Date:



# *Upper Gunnison Basin Water Report*

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*Board of County Commissioners*

*October 28, 2025*

*Beverly Richards, Office Manager/Senior Program Manager*

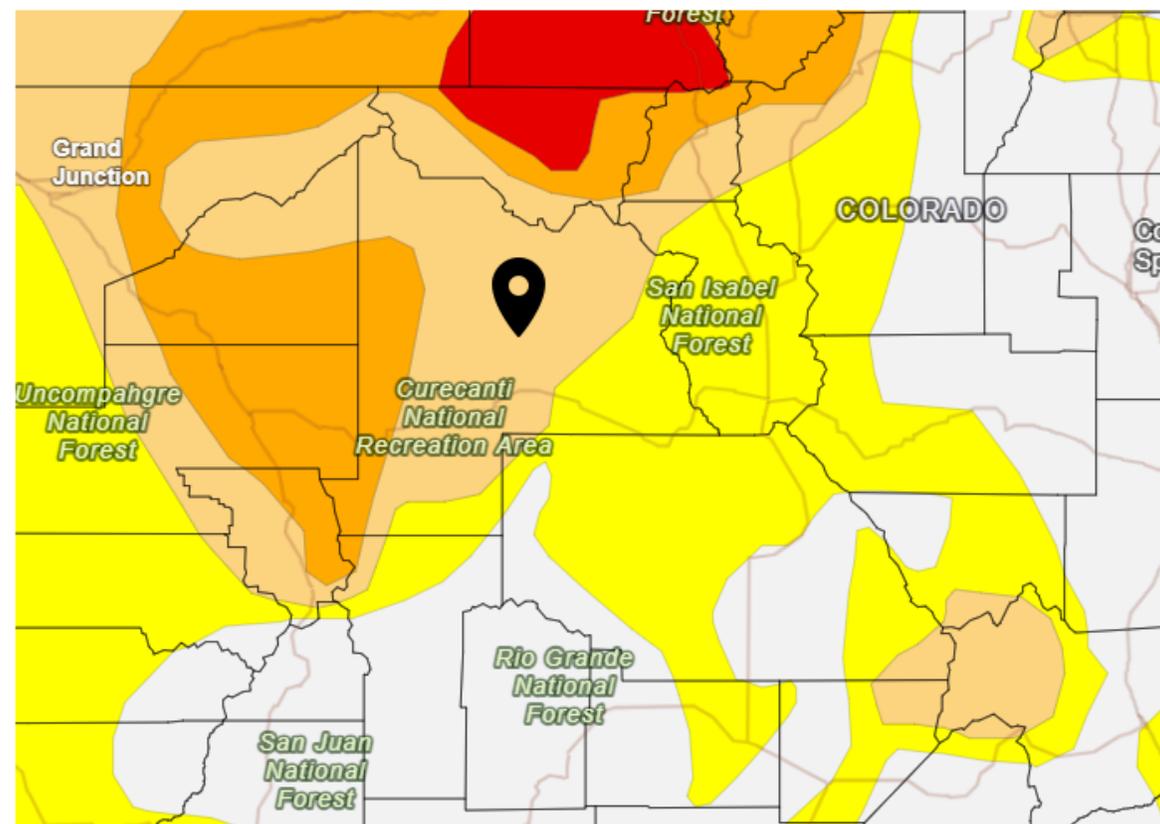
# Drought Monitor Map

As of October 21, 2025

[drought.gov](http://drought.gov)

- 85% of Gunnison County is now experiencing abnormally dry (D0) to moderate (D1) drought conditions.
- Precipitation events in early October have brought relief and drought improvement to most of the western part of the state.

## U.S. Drought Monitor



### Drought & Dryness Categories

	D0 - Abnormally Dry
	D1 - Moderate Drought
	D2 - Severe Drought
	D3 - Extreme Drought
	D4 - Exceptional Drought
	Total Area in Drought (D1-D4)

### % of Gunnison County

21.37%
63.57%
14.90%
0%
0%
78.47%

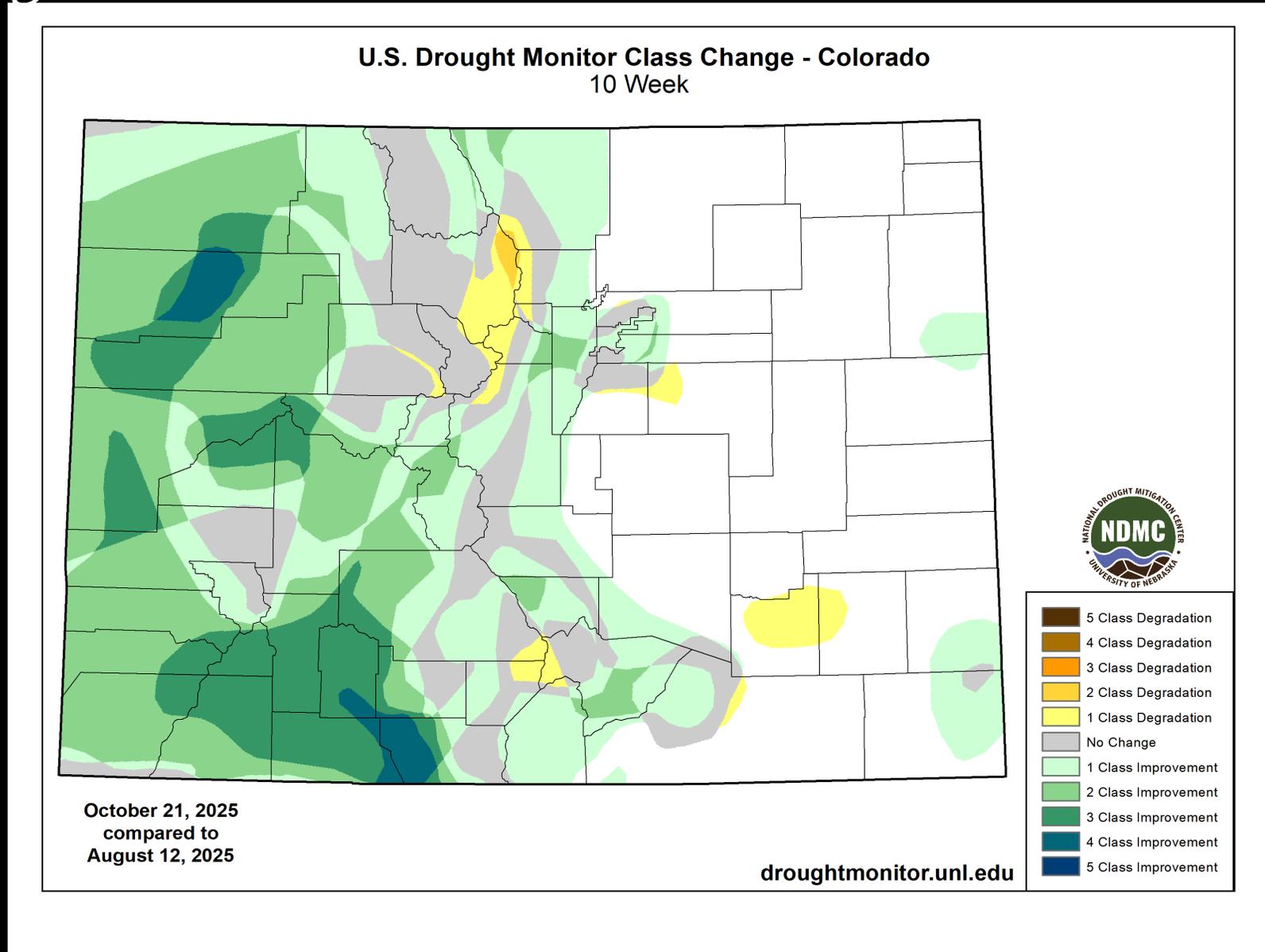
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA  
Data Valid: 10/21/25

**Drought.gov**

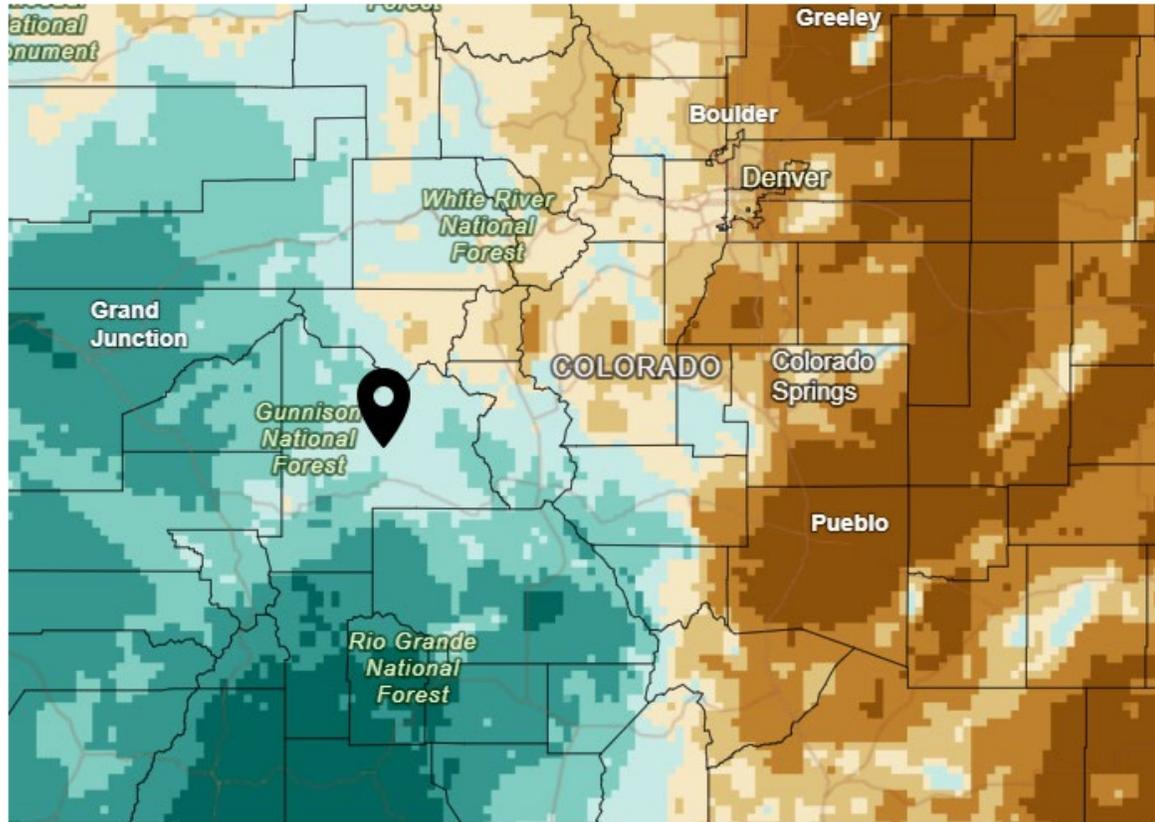
# Drought Monitor Class Change

As of October 21, 2025  
[drought.gov](http://drought.gov)

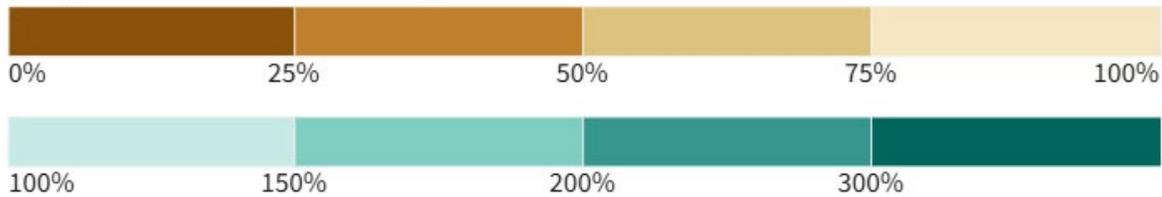
- Up to 1 to 3 class improvement has occurred in Gunnison County and the Upper Gunnison Basin in the past 10 weeks.
- The entire western slope of Colorado has improvement ranging from 1 class to 4 class.



## 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): UC Merced  
Data Valid: 10/24/25

**Drought.gov**

# *Gunnison County Precipitation Past 30 Days*

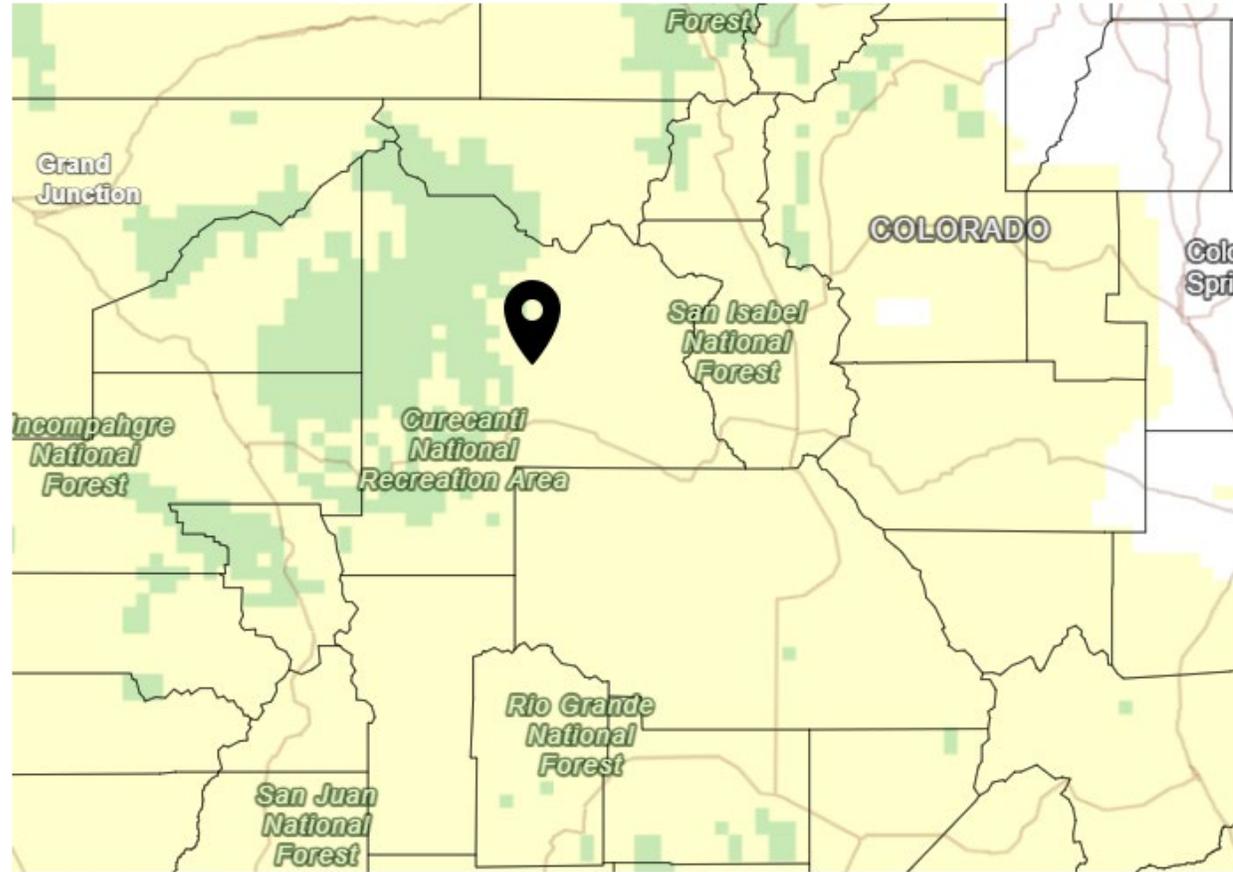
*September 25-October 24*

*As of October 24, 2025  
drought.gov*

Precipitation has ranged from 100% to 300% of normal throughout Gunnison County for the past 30 days

Hinsdale County received over 300% of the normal precipitation in the past 30 days.

## 7-Day Total Precipitation (Inches)



### Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): UC Merced

Data Valid: 10/24/25

**Drought.gov**

# *Gunnison County Precipitation Past 7 Days*

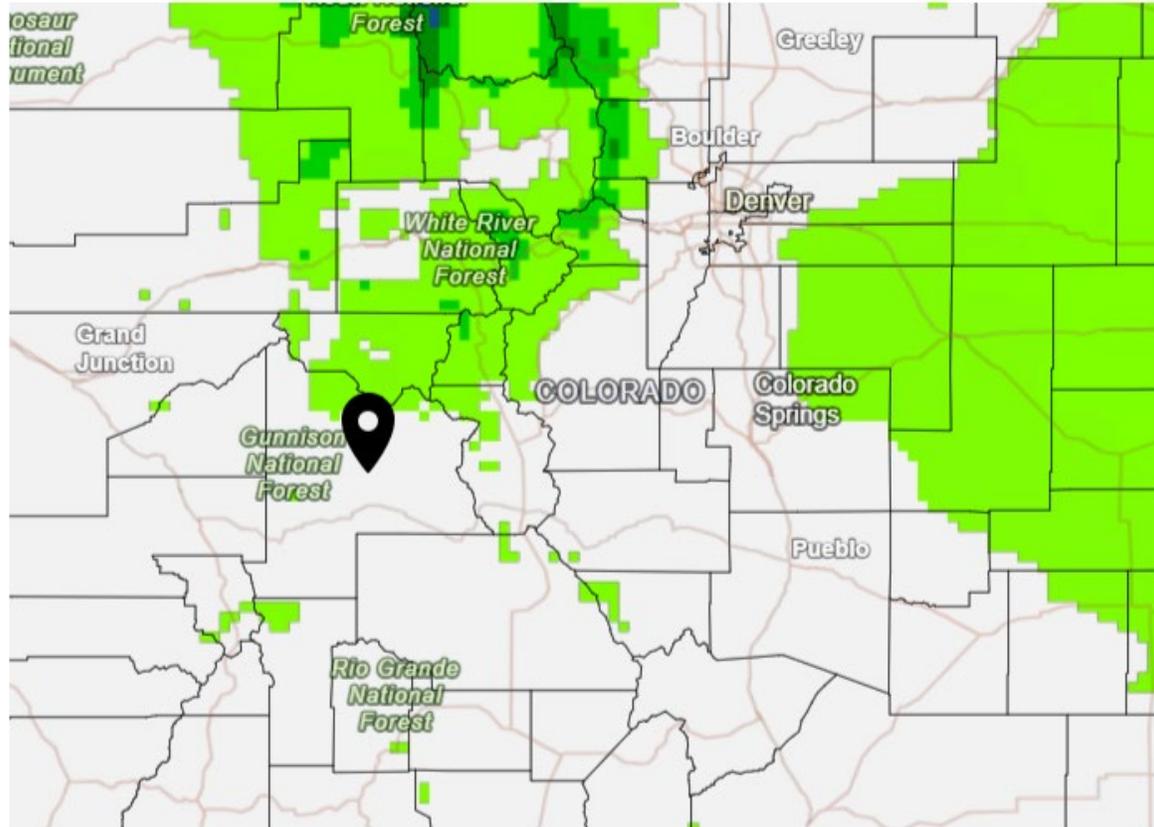
*October 18–October 24*

*As of October 24, 2025  
drought.gov*

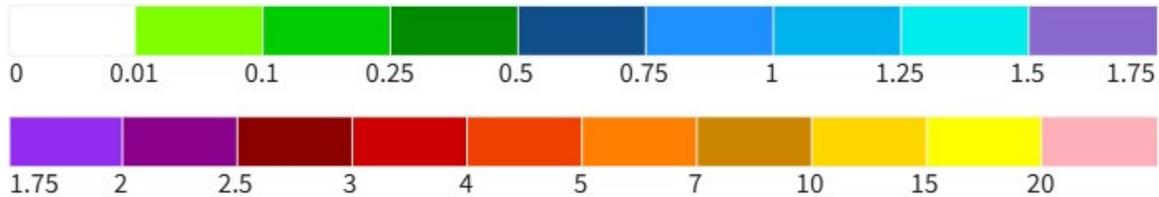
The western part of Gunnison County has seen precipitation amounts up to 1" over the past 7 days.

Most of the rest of the Upper Gunnison Basin has seen precipitation amounts ranging from .01 to .5" over that same timeframe.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 27–November 3, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 10/27/25

**Drought.gov**

# Gunnison County Precipitation 7-day Quantitative October 27–November 3

As of October 27, 2025  
[drought.gov](http://drought.gov)

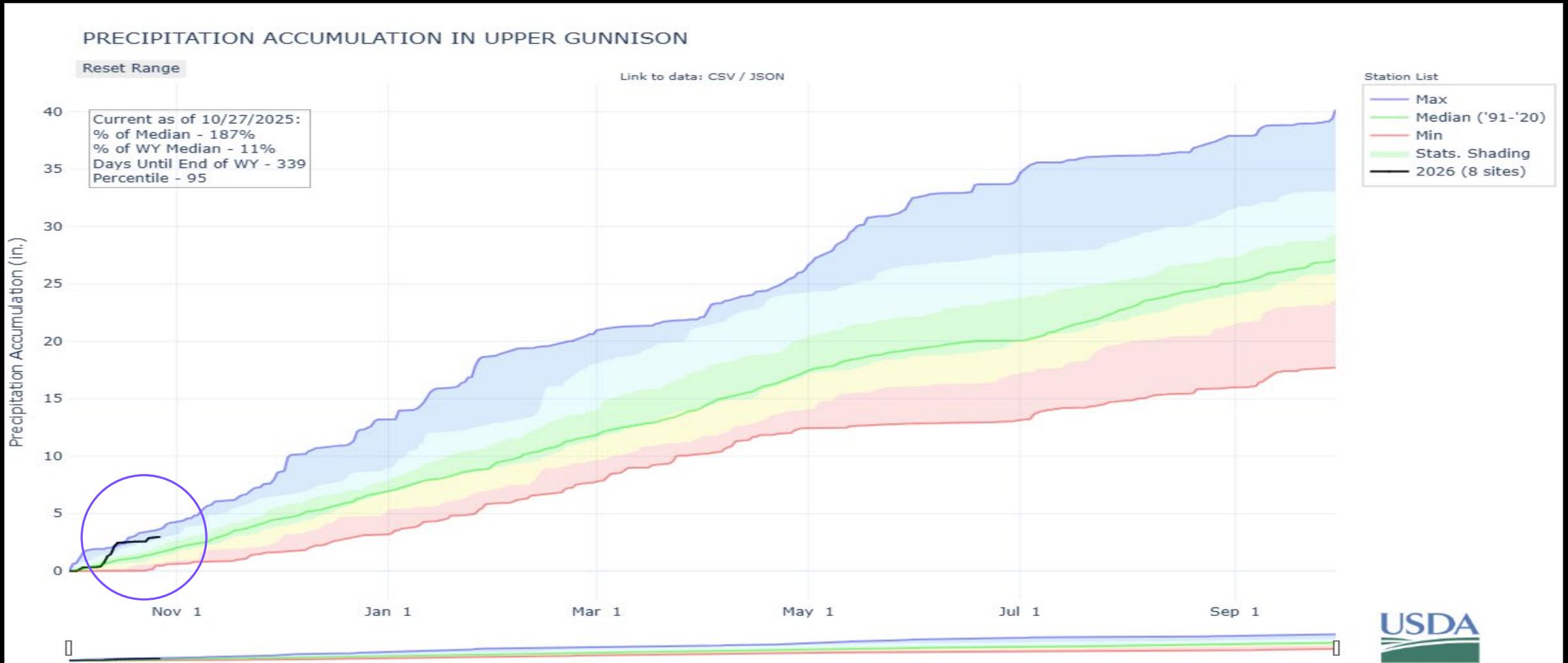
The next 7 days shows that no precipitation is forecasted except for small areas in northern Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties.

# Upper Gunnison Basin Precipitation

As of October 27, 2025  
NRCS

Precipitation accumulation for WY25 is currently at 187% of the median

Median amount is 1.6" of precipitation and WY25 to date is currently 3.0"

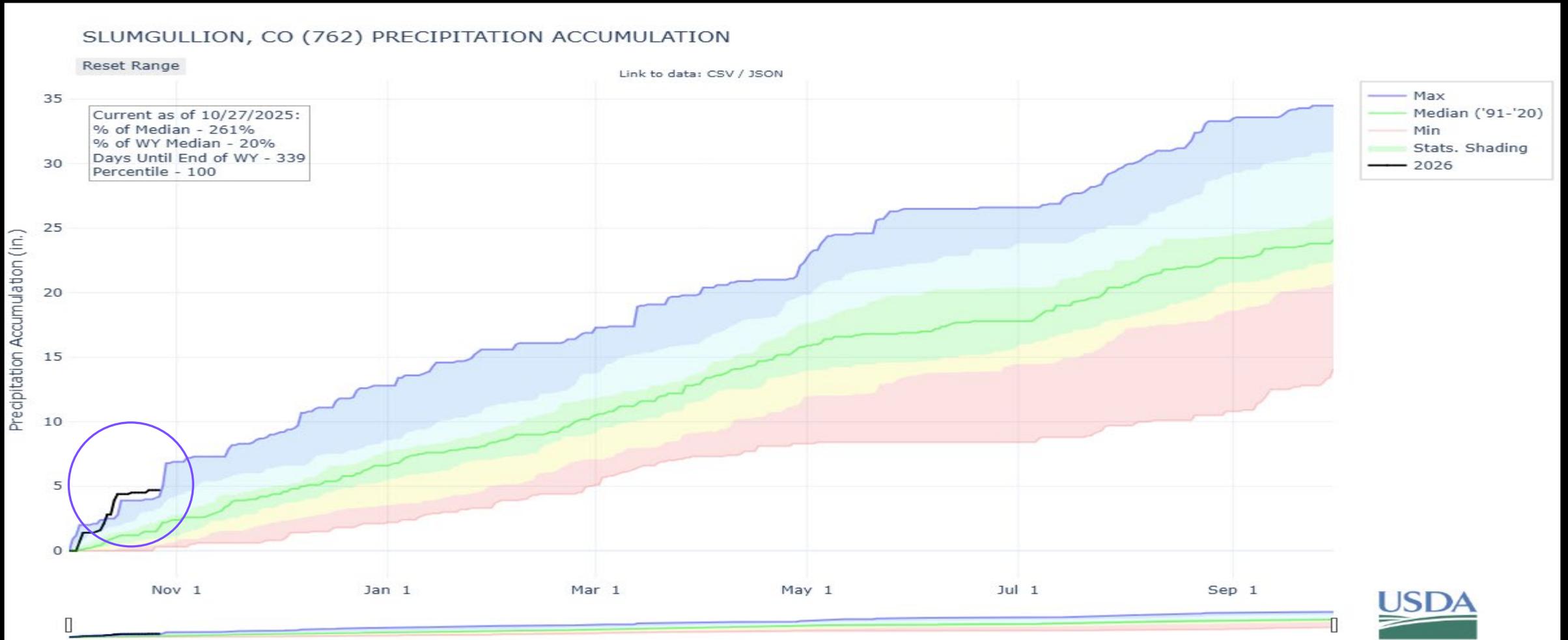


# Slumgullion Precipitation

As of October 27, 2025  
NRCS

Precipitation accumulation for WY25 is currently at 261% of the median

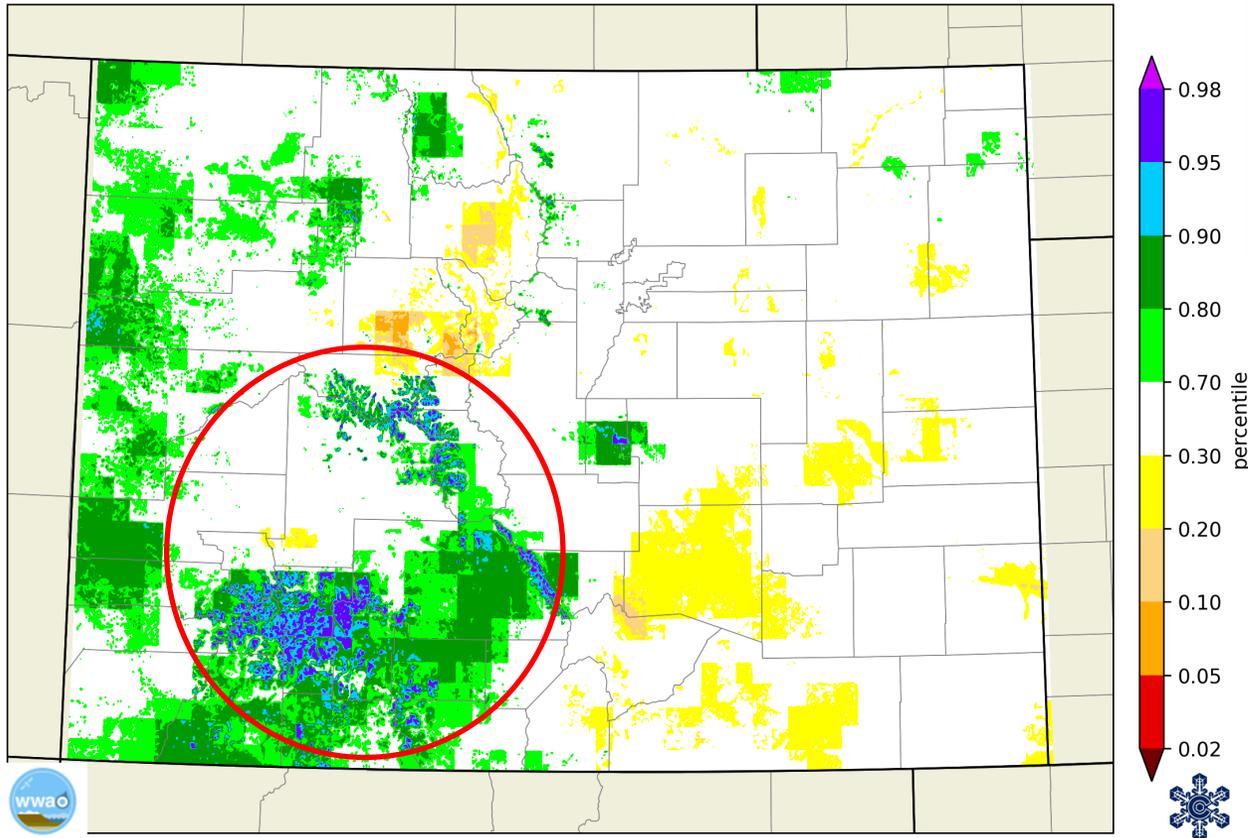
Median amount is 1.8" of precipitation and WY25 to date is currently 4.4"



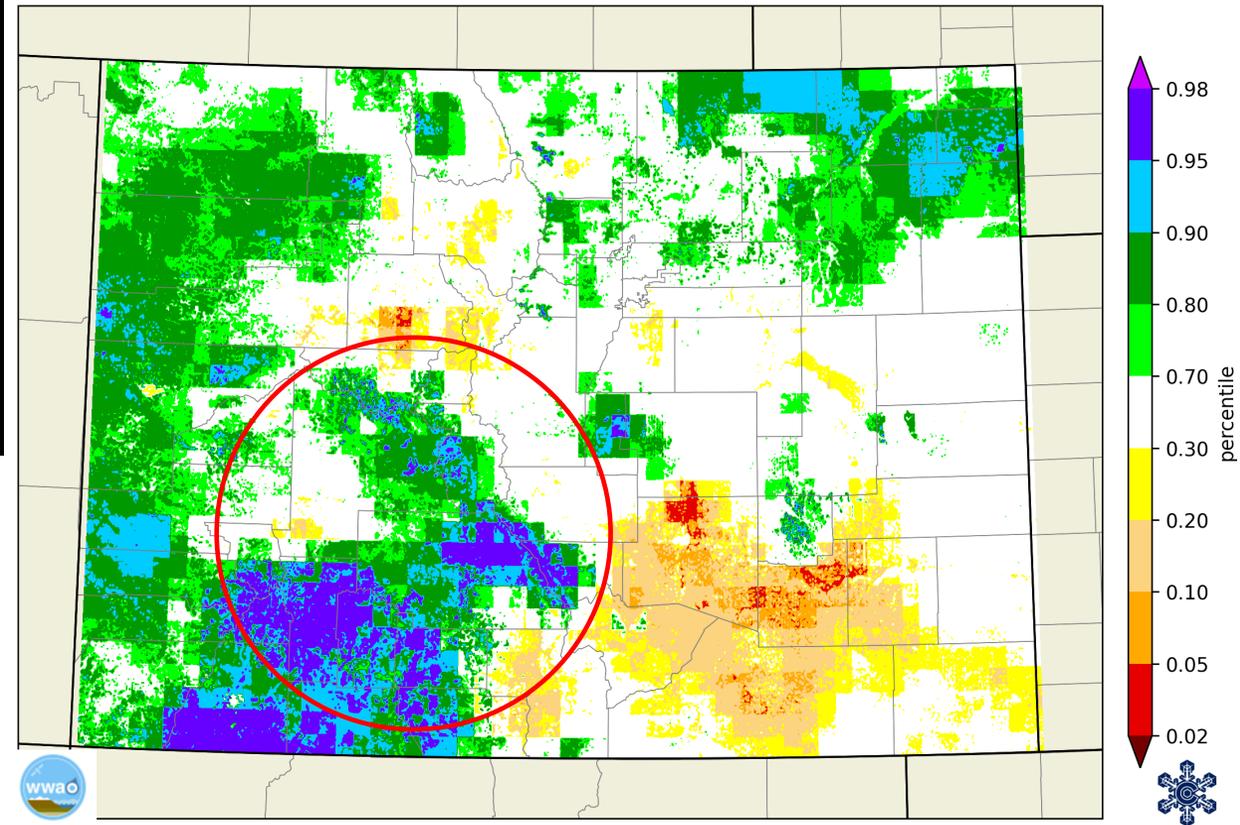
# Soil Moisture

As of October 23, 2025  
Colorado Climate Center

WLDAS 10-cm Soil moisture percentile, 23 Oct 2025



WLDAS 1-meter Soil moisture percentile, 23 Oct 2025



Soil Moisture at the 10 cm level is in the range of the 30th percentile to the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile

At the 1-meter level the range is the same but covers a much larger area, particularly to the south of Gunnison County.

# Late Season Streamflow Amounts

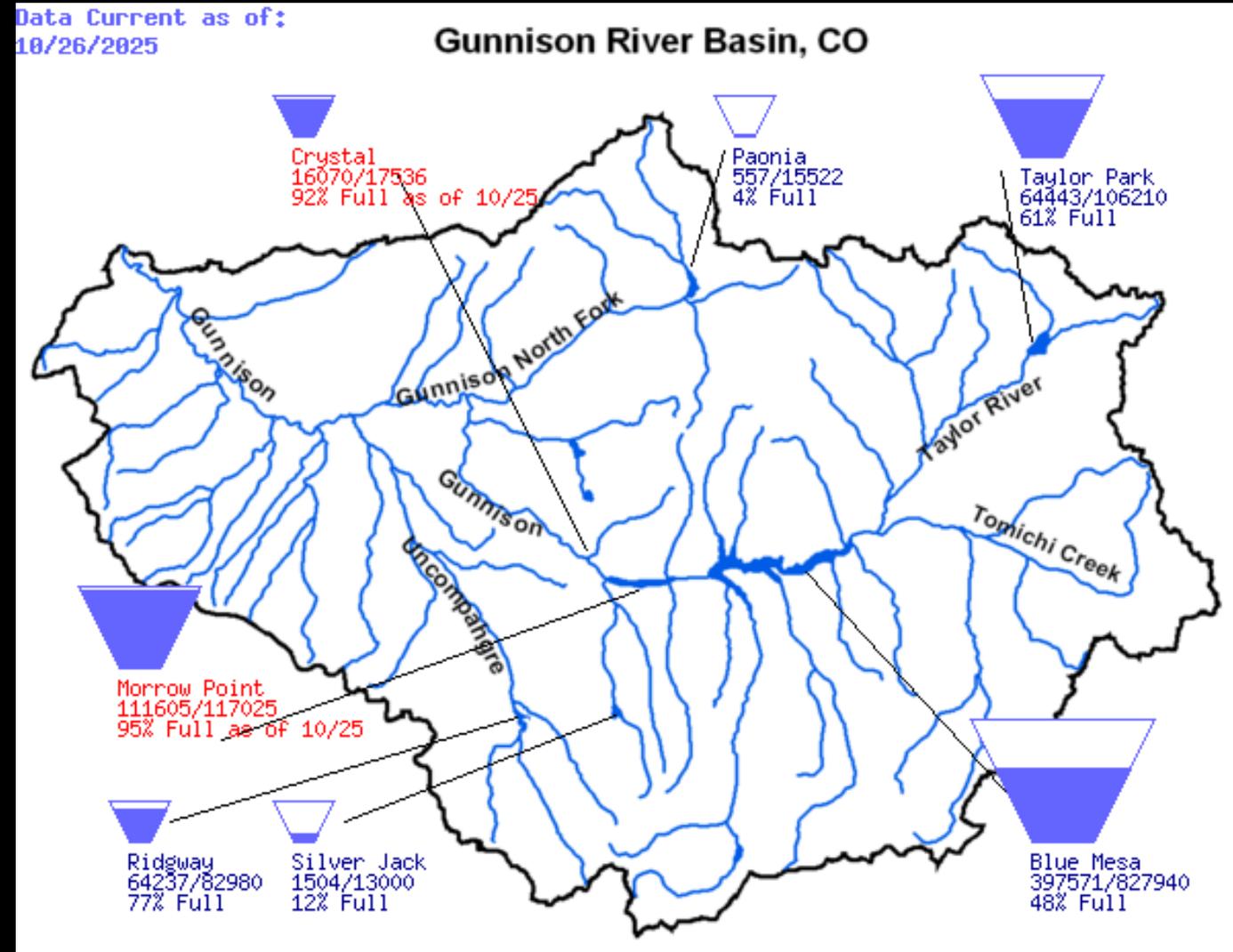
CDSS  
October 27, 2025

Station Name	October 27 (cfs)	Historical Average October 27 (cfs)	Percent of Historical Average October 27(%)
Gunnison River near Gunnison	296	326	91
Tomichi Creek at Sargent's	41	33	124
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	114	103	110
Taylor River at Taylor Park	53	52	101
Taylor River blw Taylor Park Reservoir	79	116	68
Taylor River at Almont	138	184	75
Slate River abv Baxter Gulch	<b>Not Operating</b>		
East River blw Cement Creek	98	103	95
East River at Almont	108	110	98
Lake Fork blw Lake San Cristobal	66	27	244
Henson Creek at Lake City	47	27	174
Lake Fork at Gateview	163	87	187

# Reservoir Storage Gunnison River Basin

as of October 26, 2025  
(Bureau of Reclamation)

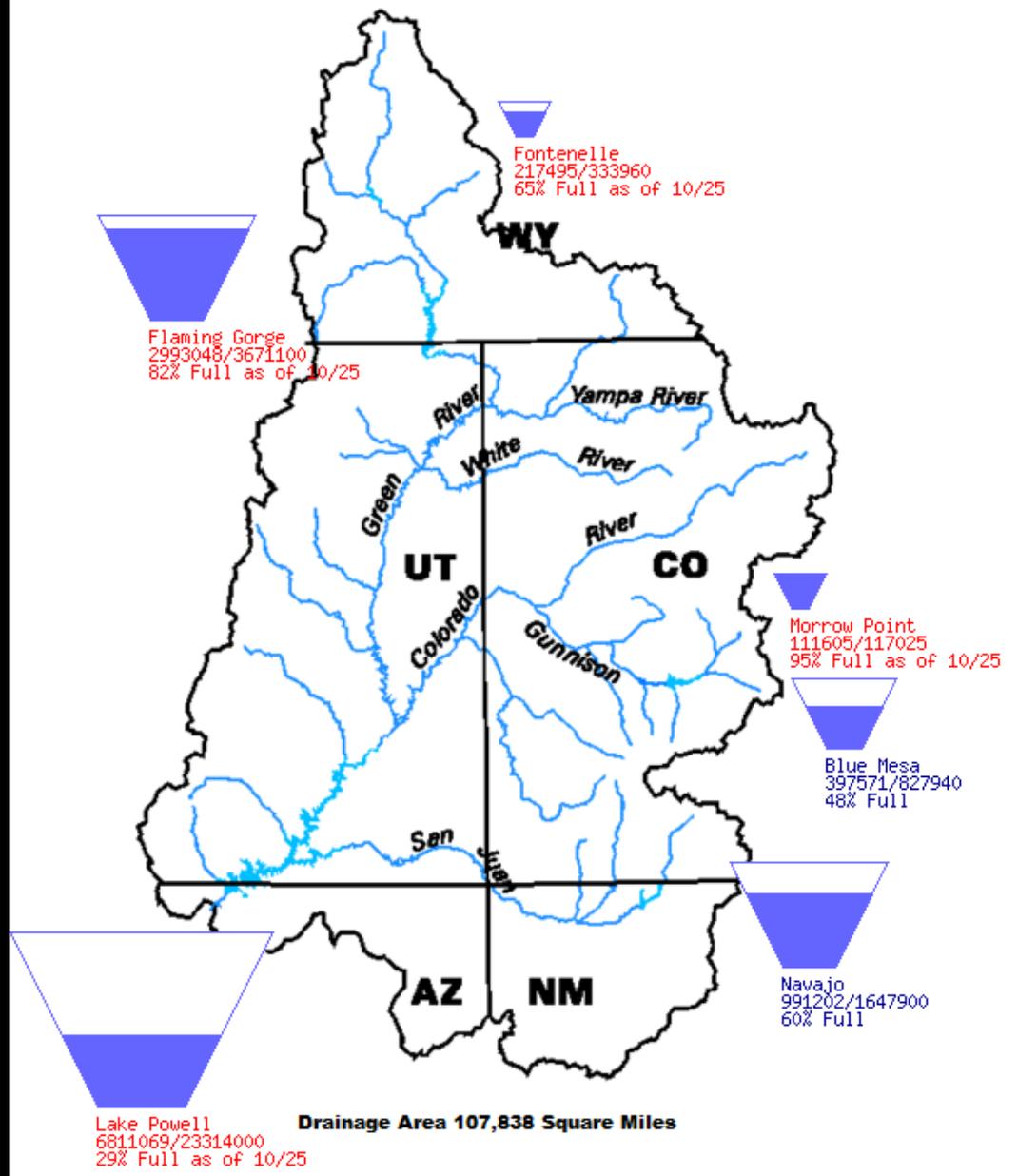
- Reservoir storage for the entire Gunnison Basin is currently at 55% of average.
- Reservoir storage for the Upper Gunnison Basin (Taylor and Blue Mesa) is at 54% of average.
- As of September 17, Taylor Reservoir was forecasted to end the water year at 63,068 acre-feet content which is 59% of average.
- In 2025, Blue Mesa ended the water year at 417,862 acre-feet which is 50% of capacity.



# Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin

## Reservoir Storage Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin as of October 26, 2025 (Bureau of Reclamation)

- Flaming Gorge – 82% full
- Fontenelle – 65% Full
- Morrow Point – 95% full
- Blue Mesa – 48% full
- Navajo – 60% full
- Lake Powell – 29% full
- Total Upper Colorado Storage - 63%



# Slate River Gage Site

October 27, 2025



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*Questions?*

beverly@ugrwc.org



Photo: Teresa Golden

**AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM**

**Agenda Item:** West Region Wildfire Council Annual Update

**Action Requested:** Discussion

**Parties to the Agreement:**

**Term Begins:**

**Term Ends:**

**Grant Contract #:**

**Summary:**

The West Region Wildfire Council would like to present an annual update on accomplishments, projects, and future priorities to the Gunnison County BoCC.

**Fiscal Impact:** none

**Submitted by:** Lisa Bickford

**Submitter's Email Address:** Lbickford@gunnisoncounty.org

**Finance Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

**County Attorney Review:**

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes  No

**County Manager Review:**

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirmie

Discharge Date: 10/23/2025

Consent Agenda     Regular Agenda     Worksession

Time Allotted: 30

Agenda Date: 10/28/2025

# Gunnison County 2025 Update

West  
Region  
Wildfire  
Council

Tim Pinnow  
Aaron Johnson  
Eric Loy



Photo courtesy [JakeNiece.com](http://JakeNiece.com)

# WRWC Staff



Tim Pinnow  
CEO



Aaron Johnson  
COO



Lilia Falk  
CEO



Brad Eckert  
Forester



Scott Lahey  
Forester



Cimmy Alexander  
Finance and Program  
Assistant



Danny Duda  
Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/ GIS



Eric Loy  
Gunnison Wildfire Mitigation Specialist



Emma Pinnow  
Social Media Manager

# The Issue

- Life Safety
- Structure and Infrastructure Protection
- Incident Stabilization



# West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC)



Increase resilience to wildfire in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties in Colorado



Education & Technical Support

Funding Aggregation

Collaboration



# Education and Technical Assistance

- Site Visit Program
- Wildfire Ready Home Program
- Vegetation Management Program (VMP)
- Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments (RWRA'S)
  - Wildfire Research Center Social Study
- Community Support
  - Site Visits
  - RWRA's
  - VMP
  - Community and HOA Meetings
  - Community Assessments



# Wildfire Ready Home (WRH)

- Certification based program
- Provide 'Peace of mind'
- Increase property value
- Help prevent cancellation of insurance



# Vegetation Management Program

- Provides technical assistance
- Provides financial assistance (when available)
- WRWC Forester manages the project
  - Layout- accounting for local factors
  - Competitive Bid Process
  - Assist with contractor selection
  - Oversee contractors work
  - Help landowner every step of the way



# Funding for Vegetation Management

TOTAL Acres (2011-2024): 968

TOTAL Cost-Share Awarded (2011-2024):  
\$1.2 Million

TOTAL Landowner Cash Match (2011-  
2024): \$803,588

TOTAL Landowner In-kind (2011-2024):  
\$204,789



# Mitigating wildfire risk at the community scale



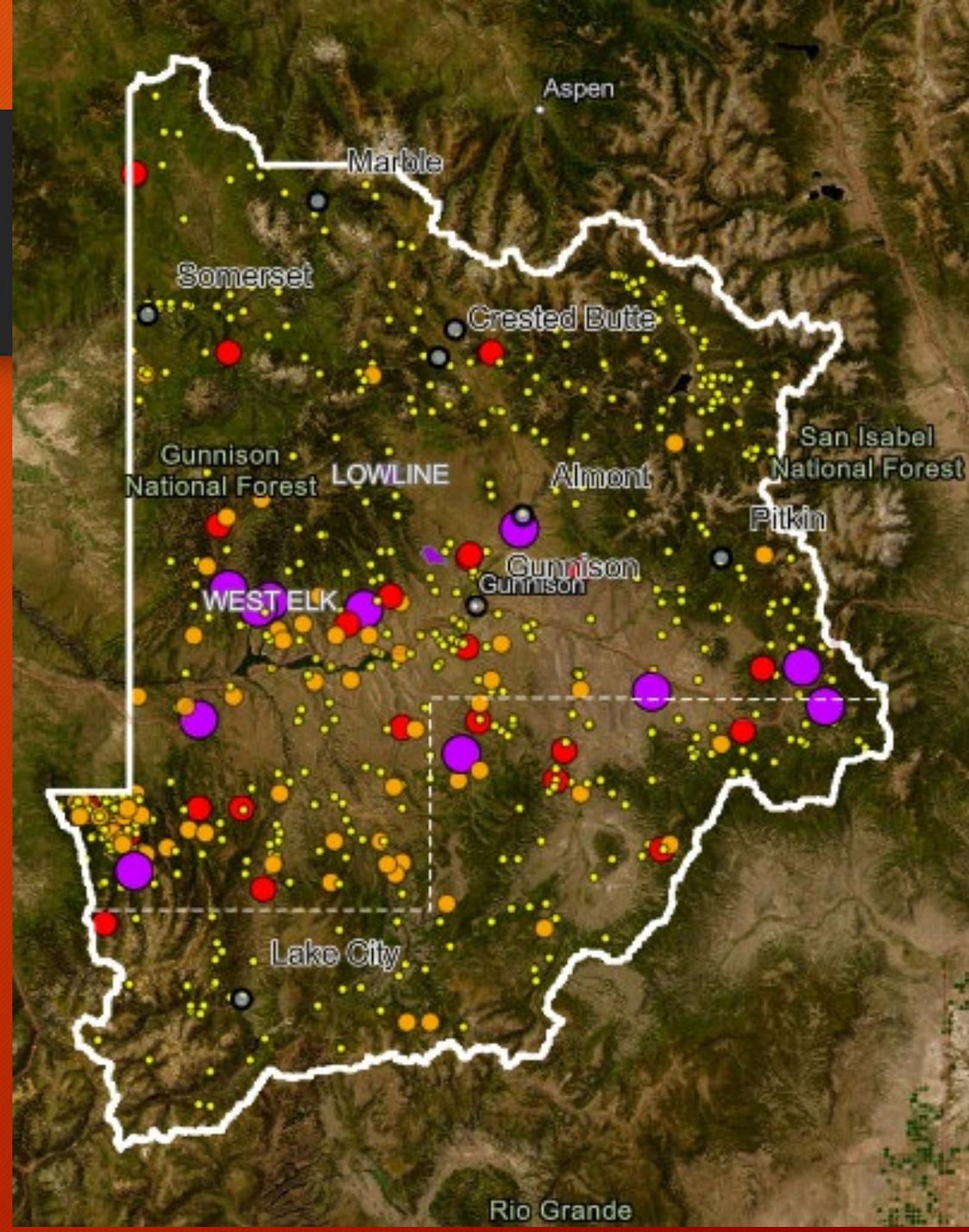
## Community Services

- Vegetation Management Project Layout for HOA's and Communities
- Funding Opportunities
- Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments
- Community Wildfire Risk Assessment
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Community Meetings



# Collaboration

- Assisted with the CWPP
  - Funding Support
  - Subject Matter Expertise
  - Facilitation
- Facilitate the Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council
- Training WRH Assessors
  - CB Fire Certified to complete assessments



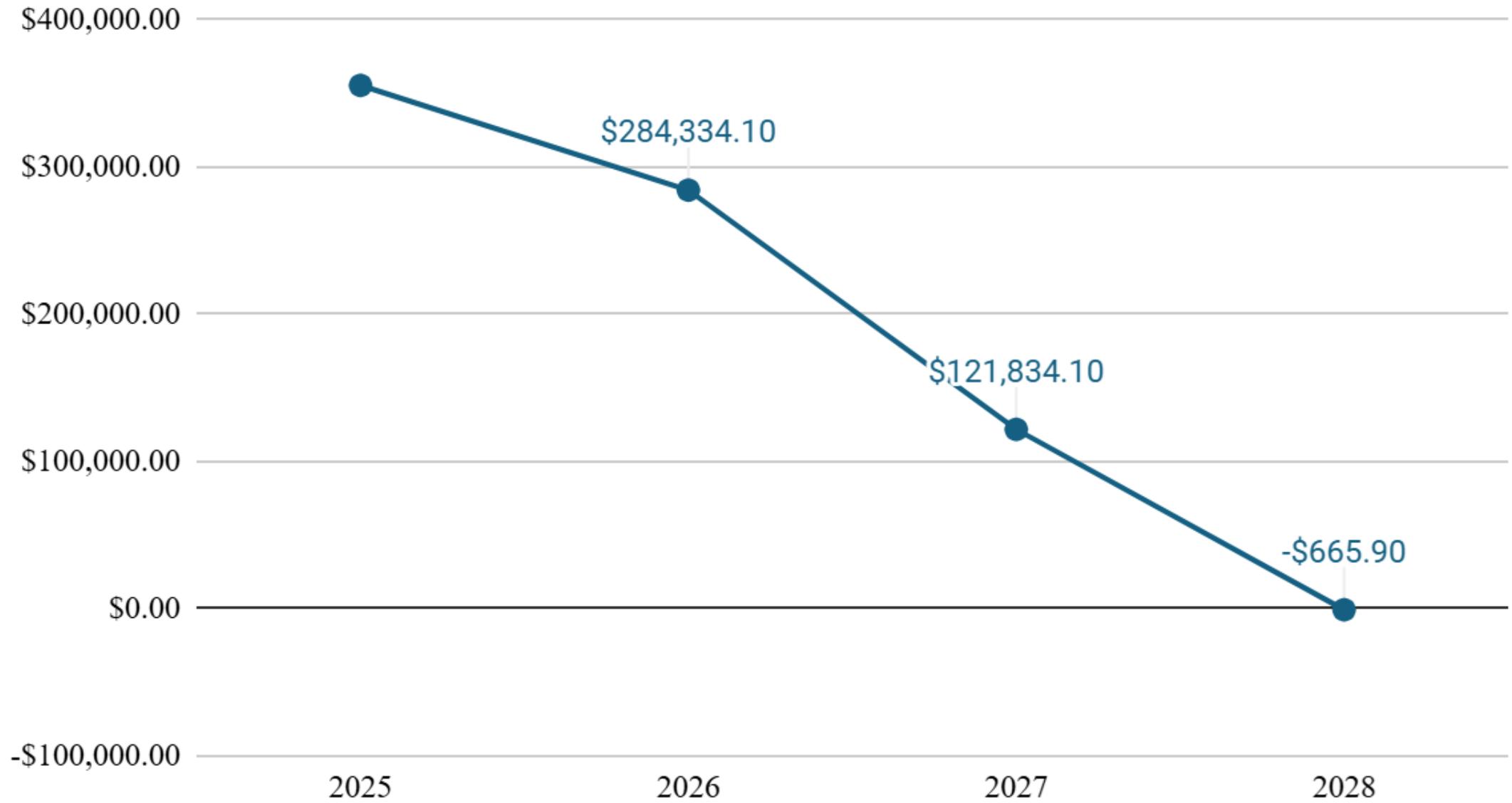
# Recent (2024/2025) Funding secured by WRWC in Partnership with Gunnison County

- 2025 CWPP Development-  
\$100,000
- Gunnison Wildfire Mitigation Specialist-  
\$118,000
- Trappers Crossing Dspace & Emergency Ingress/ Egress thinning- 2025 (116 acres)-  
\$502,000
- Trappers Crossing Dspace & Emergency Ingress/ Egress thinning - 2026 (1.8 miles of road & 10 Defensible Space Projects)-  
\$429,000
- For every \$1 in mitigation, \$13 are saved in suppression, economic impact, and recovery costs.- U.S. Chamber of Commerce

# Title III Funding Allocation

- Gunnison Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Salary & Program Support (match to CRSC funding)
- WRWC Program Support-  
\$30,000/ year\$
- Match for Gunnison County Defensible Space & Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects- CWPP Implementation-  
\$75,000 / year

# Title III Funding Projections



# Gunnison Based Wildfire Mitigation Specialist



## Position Priorities

- Site Visits
- WUI Code Technical Assistance
- CWPP Implementation
- Community and HOA Support
- Education, Outreach, and Collaboration

## Supported By

- Title III Funding
- Colorado River Sustainability Campaign

# Plans for 2026

- 148.8 acres of vegetation management identified work on private parcels- estimated \$763,000 of work that needs funding
- Continue to work with insurers and realtors to increase recognition of the WRH Program
- Identify and train WRH Assessors
- Contractor Marketplace
- Develop WUI Code Support
- Support CWPP Priorities
- Targeted Outreach
- Marble



# Burning Questions



What would you like to share with us?



Photo courtesy of [JohnFielder.com](http://JohnFielder.com)

Thank you for your support of WRWC!

